

PARENT SCHOOL COUNCIL 2020/ 2021
MEETING MINUTES FROM December 9, 2020

In attendance: M. McCann [Principal], R. Johnson, [Teacher Rep], A. Cunanan [Co-Chair], A. Patola [Co-Chair], J. Rye [Commn. Rep], N Sarin [Treasurer], A. Pronski [Secretary], A. Litster, J. Roy, V. Arulsundaram, D. Crnkovic, Stacy, T O'Mara

Opening:

- Acknowledgement of First Nations Sacred Territory – A. Cunanan
- Opening Prayer – A. Cunanan
- Commencement of meeting
 - Approved – A. Cunanan moved for approval & A. Pronski seconded motion
- Meeting minutes – November 4th, 2020
 - M. McCann provided an update on changes made since Council shared minutes
 - Approved – A. Cunanan moved for approval, A. Pronski & J. Rye seconded motion
- Approval of today's meeting agenda
 - Approved – A. Pronski moved for approval & N. Sarin seconded motion

December Agenda:

1. Update on outdoor space
 - Landscape architect has provided a number of options, pictures and associated prices
 - **Track Project** – for physical exercise outdoors
 - 3 Material choices:
 - Limestone = \$9,033 + hst
 - Mulch = \$10,744 + hst
 - Rubber track = TBD (higher than other two options)
 - **Seating Project** – for outdoor classrooms and socialization
 - 3 “around tree” configuration choices: Spiral, circle, or hexagon shape around trees in the yard with 3 Material choices (cost quoted per bench/ tree) :
 - Cedar board bench = \$2,126.24 + hst
 - Composite top (instead of cedar) = \$2,448.24 + hst
 - Mill top log (instead of cedar or composite) = \$2,285 + hst
 - 4 “log seating” configuration choices:
 - Hexagon, Zig Zag & Spiral = x1 \$2,625 + hst; x2 \$2,385 + hst
 - Backless Log Bench = x1 \$1,195 + hst, x2 \$955 +hst, x3 \$857 + hst, x4 \$835 +hst; x5 \$811 + hst, x6+ \$795 +hst
 - M. McCann consulted with the student ECO Team to get a student led perspective on top priorities for this outdoor space project. Feedback was:
 - Prioritize seating project first, then the track project
 - Preferred the circle seating configuration around trees; no comment on material choices; and would ideally like the benches to be installed around 3 trees on the North side of the yard (instead of the East side of the yard). Note: every year there is a graduation tree planted and in the spring of 2021 there will be two new trees being planted (one for last year and one for this year).
 - Motion to defer this decision to the next council meeting, given we would not be building benches in the Winter months
 - Approved - N. Sarin moved for approval & J. Rye seconded motion
2. Update on proposed mask purchase
 - Board finance department has said no
3. School bus cancellation
 - If buses are cancelled in our area (see below), then St. James will be closed to students
 - Classes will be taught online synchronously (live) via learning platform (e.g. Google Classroom)

- Example agenda: 9-9:30 (teachers available for questions); 9:30 – 11 (lesson being taught online); 11-1 (lunch/ teachers available for questions), 1-2:30 (lesson being taught online); 2:30-3:30 (teachers available for questions)
 - St. James area is **Peel** (includes Mississauga and Brampton). Our school will be closed if Peel buses are cancelled.
 - Our area **is not Dufferin County** (includes Orangeville and Caledon). If buses are cancelled in this area and not Peel, our school is not impacted.
 - Ms. Litster will always try to notify parents of closures via email
4. Technology
- There are iPad, Chrome Book & Laptops in every classroom (~8-12/ classroom)
 - In Grades 7 & 8 there is 1 device/ student; In K to Gr 6 there are shared devices in the classroom which are wiped down between use
 - With the Hybrid Learning program, there are also loaner devices available if families require it
5. St. James Registration
- Website was updated this week for 2021/2022 registration details (January 19th to 22nd)
 - There will be no in-person registration option this year due to covid
 - Original documents will not be required; scanned copies will be accepted digitally
 - All forms are available online on the website
 - When registration is received, St. James will respond to the family within 48 hours to let them know materials have been received and are accurately completed. Families will also receive a lottery number at this time.
 - A parent inquired about St. James outreach efforts to reach a more diverse population
 - St. James recruitment efforts include: advertising on the Board website, on St. James school website, as well as on the IB website
 - Council will connect with this parent to suggest they reach out to M. McCann directly regarding suggestion they may have
6. Hybrid Learning Mode
- Attendance Update: ~4% of school population attend virtual only (not St. James hybrid); on any given day 8-15% of school population attend hybrid remote (initial form submitted by parents indicated ~ 8% of school population would be hybrid remote).
 - Utilizing hybrid remote for covid related reasons (e.g. feeling ill) is the intent of the design
 - However, school has observed a number of students using hybrid remote for weather or other non-health related reasons. This has created an administrative challenge to call all of these students whom are not present in class. Please ensure you report your attendance by calling the school if you will be changing your hybrid learning mode.
 - Technology Update: all the teachers have Chrome Books & Smart Boards and for the most part found the transition to a hybrid learning model quite smooth. A few technology challenges with supply teachers, but with support from others in the school, this has gone well too.

School's Report

1. Catholicity
- Virtue Certificates – HOPE
 - School Advent Mass – Father was in the library and live streamed the mass into the classrooms
 - Recent confirmation students assisted with readings
 - Communion could not be completed due to covid restrictions
 - Memorial Mass
 - Was held today for Mr. Giannobile with teachers & school staff
 - Plan is to do another live stream memorial with students in the future
 - Pictures of jersey dedicated to Mr. Giannobile were shared
2. Curriculum
- Units of Inquiry Highlights:
 - JK/SK – completed Human Body inquiry and are now talking about how we celebrate Christmas and how people around the World celebrate

- Gr 1 – completed daily & seasonal changes (as part of How the World Works), now starting Where we are in place and time inquiry
 - Gr. 5 – are working on a virtual Christmas show. Plus starting coding as part of the new math curriculum (St. James has been doing coding for some time, so not necessarily new, except will now be part of report cards)
 - Gr 8 – applied for a grant and were awarded it!
3. Co-Curricular:
- Spirit Week – December 14 – 18th
 - 14 – Christmas Colours
 - 15 – Christmas Sock Day
 - 16 – Ugly Sweater
 - 17 – Santa/ Elf Hat Day + Craft Day + Santa Virtual Visit
 - 18 – PJ + Movie Day
 - Math Contest w/ the University of Waterloo (Beaver Computing Challenge)
 - Grade 5/6 (1st place = 4 students; 2nd place = 1 student)
 - Grade 7/8 (1st place = 2 students; 4th place = 1 student)
 - Incredible results competing against thousands of students
4. Facilities
- Bulletin Boards - 5 new boards added to the school for Inquiry Cycle documentation and gives children an opportunity to reflect on how much they have learned
 - Trees – 2 new trees coming in the Spring
 - Parking & Fire Route – this continues to be an issue; M. McCann has reached out to City of Mississauga for support with this issue and safety of children is a concern.
 - Consider using Metro parking or neighborhood parking on other side of walkway
5. Food Drive in support of the Compass – collecting until the 15th; great participation!
6. Metro Green Apple Grant – application was submitted a few weeks ago, waiting to hear back

Treasurer's Financial Report – N. Sarin

- 2020/2021 School Fundraiser Update = \$6,900 raised (44% participation rate)

Opening Balance	\$13,180.86	
- Cheque for 2019/2020 student agendas	-\$684,75	Approved May 15, 2019
Closing Balance – Nov. 30	\$12,496.11	
Upcoming Commitments:		
-Grad tree (2019-2020)	-\$300	Approved Feb 12, 2020
-Awards (2019-2020)	-\$350	Approved Feb 12, 2020
-Student agendas (2020-2021)	-700	Approved Feb 12, 2020
-Standing items for 2020-2021 (including student agendas for 2021-2022)	-\$3,000	Approved Oct 7, 2020
Available Funds	\$8,146.11	
+Fundraiser Donations	+\$6,900.00	
Final Balance	\$15,046.11	

Parish Update

- Sacramental Information:
 - First Holy Communion = Grade 2+ (if child has not yet participate in 1st holy communion) – Tuesday, December 8 at 7pm – virtual information meeting
 - Confirmation = Grade 7+ (if child has not yet participated in confirmation) – Thursday, December 10th at 7pm – virtual information meeting

Central Committee of Catholic School Councils Update

- Dec. 14th – Zentagle Art – Family Event. Details shared with school community via. St. James email

- Jan. 28th – Info Session to support the transition of children with differing abilities beginning school in September 2021
- Details regarding other available workshops will be shared with St. James school community. These workshops cover a range of relevant parenting topics and have been recorded for ease of access
- Motion to adjourn meeting
 - Approved – A. Cunanan moved for approval, N. Sarin & A. Patola seconded motion

Action Items:

1. Council members to discuss outdoor space project in preparation for voting on proposal next meeting
2. A. Cunanan to share details of workshop w/ M. McCann

Future meetings (via Zoom):

February 3rd at 6:30pm